

**SF Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund
Competitive Grant Program Announcement, EPA Region 9
February 2012**

Funding is now available from U.S. EPA Region 9 through the SF Bay Water Quality Improvement Funds. Since 2008, EPA has awarded over \$22 million through ten grants supporting 38 projects, match and leveraging over \$40 million, and involving 53 partners to protect and restore SF Bay and its watershed. The following briefly describes two available solicitations for this SF Bay competitive grant program.

	RFIP (FY 2011)	RFIP (FY 2012)
Funding Opportunity #	EPA-R9-WTR3-12-001	EPA-R9-WTR3-12-002
Available Funds	\$1,000,000	up to \$5,847,000
Funding Range for Projects	\$200,000 to \$1,000,000	\$500,000 to \$2,000,000
Match (statutory authority)	25%	50%
Evaluation Criteria - <u>Initial Proposals</u> (100 pts)	Scope/Approach (45 pts) Environmental Results (45 pts) Budget Summary (10 pts)	Scope/Approach (45 pts) Environmental Results (45 pts) Budget Summary (10 pts)
Evaluation Criteria - <u>Full Proposals</u> (100 pts)	Partnerships/Leveraging (40 pts) Budget Detail (40 pts) Programmatic Capability and Past Performance (20 pts)	Partnerships (35 pts) Budget Detail (45 pts) Programmatic Capability and Past Performance (20 pts)

Common RFIP Elements

- Uses a 2-step process to simplify application procedures and improve proposal quality.
 - 4-page initial proposals due March 16, 2012.
 - Applicants with the highest ranking initial proposals will be invited to submit full proposals within 30 days of EPA's notification.
 - Emphasis on wetlands and restoration of impaired waters – but other project types are clearly encouraged.
 - Invites projects encouraging innovation, cost-effectiveness, leveraging of additional resources and fostering widespread implementation.
 - Planning projects are welcomed, but to be competitive they need to demonstrate a high likelihood of being implemented and describe the expected water quality results.
- Eligibility
 - Projects must protect water quality in the SF Bay and its watersheds (9 Bay Area Counties).
 - Broad range of entities including government agencies, NGOs, universities, etc.
- Anticipated environmental results must be quantified.
- Proposals must demonstrate consistency with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.
- Projects are encouraged to be based on existing analysis and plans (e.g., TMDLs and watershed plans) because they are more likely to be successful and better investments.
- Review and Selection Process
 - Initial Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by an EPA Review Committee. High ranking initial proposals will be invited to submit full proposals.
 - Full Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by the Review Committee. Funding recommendations based on the full proposal scores will be provided to EPA's Region 9 Water Division Director.
 - Final funding decisions will be made by EPA's Region 9 Water Division Director, in consultation with the Regional Administrator, and can consider geographic distribution, diversity of projects and availability of funds.
 - Grant awards are expected to be made by August 2012.

For More Information

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/watershed/sfbaywqfund/index.html>

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